



## SECTION 2 | OPERATIONS

### 2.13 Cold Weather Operations

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**Reason:** To provide guidance on procedures involving storage/movement/interaction of aircraft during defined cold weather operations.

**Scope: Flight Instructors.** The procedure below applies to flight instructors. Flight instructors are responsible for informing their students on the procedures.

**Procedure:**

1.) Overall

- a.) Cold Weather operations are defined as operations when the outside air temperatures are indicated less than 32 degrees fahrenheit or 0 degrees celsius.
- b.) Extreme Cold Weather operations are defined as outside indicated air temperature is less than 0 degrees fahrenheit or -17 degrees celsius.

2.) Aircraft Storage

- a.) If Extreme Cold Weather operations are in effect, no US Flight Co aircraft will be dispatched.
  - i.) All aircraft parked outside will be returned to the hangar as soon as practical.
- b.) If Cold Weather operations are in effect, all US Flight Co aircraft will be heated when parked outdoors
  - i.) If an aircraft is left outside without being heated for 30 minutes, it will be required to be heated for 10 minutes prior to attempting engine start.
  - ii.) After a flight during Cold Weather operations, all US Flight Co aircraft are required to be plugged in to heating if left outdoors.

3.) General Operations

- a.) Note that cold temperatures reduce battery performance. Check charge of battery and use of external power sources for starting if needed.
- b.) During cold weather operations, limit start attempts to 4 cycles.
  - i.) If engine start is not obtained, apply heat to engine for an additional 10 minutes, and consult maintenance if possible before reattempt.
- c.) Keep engine performance above 1200 RPM in Cessna's and Cherokee for



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at least 5 minutes after start before takeoff. For Pipistrels, 2500 RPM for 5 minutes.

- d.) Do not attempt an engine test if the aircraft is parked on snow or ice
- e.) If an aircraft needs to be defrosted, bring the aircraft to hangar for deicing until all visible frost or ice is removed.
- f.) Ensure students are paying attention to potential water buildup in fuel, and ensure water is drained prior to operations.
- g.) At the discretion of the flight instructor, ensure all students are dressed in appropriate cold weather attire.
- h.) Pilots may not dispatch solo during Cold Weather operations unless instructed on this SOP.